

**U. S. Department of Veterans
Affairs**



Department of Veterans
Affairs
Washington, DC

December 2004



VA Mission

“...to care for him who shall
have borne the battle and for
his widow and his orphan.”

Abraham Lincoln



• **U. S. Department of Veterans
Affairs**

Established in 1930 as an
independent Federal Agency

The Veterans Administration, or “VA”

Elevated to Cabinet status in 1988,
now
Department of Veterans Affairs
(VA)

December 2004



One VA

- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
- Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
- National Cemetery Administration (NCA)



Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA)

- 57 VA Regional Offices (RO)
- RO located in every State plus Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and Philippines.
- Toll-Free Telephone Service
(1-800-827-1000)



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

- Compensation and Pension
- Education
- Home Loan Guaranty
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Insurance



U. S. Department of Veterans
Affairs

Compensation & Pension Service

Veterans Services

Manages public contact programs and services through Veterans Service Centers at the 57 ROs

- Direct Services
- Outreach
- Fiduciary Program

December 2004



Direct Services

- Telephone Interviews (6,565,864 in FY 2004)
- Personal Interviews (1,075,636 in FY 2004)
- Correspondence (4,343,741 in FY 2004)
- Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act Requests (83,254 in FY 2004)
- Briefings at military facilities (7,210 sessions with 261,391 attendees in FY 2004)



Outreach

- Military (Transition Assistance Program, TAP at Sea, OEF/OIF Seriously Injured/III, Reserve/Guard, Casualty Assistance)
- Seamless Transition
- Dependents and Survivors
- Elderly Veterans
- Former POWs
- Homeless Veterans
- Minorities
- Women Veterans
- Unclaimed Indigent Veterans



Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

- Joint DOD/DOL/Homeland Security/VA
- For pre-separates/retirees (within 12 months of separation or 24 months of retirement)
- Scheduled at military separation installations (approx. 176 in U.S.)
- 3-day workshops (VA portion ½-day)



TAP

(continued)

- Workshop Topics
 - Military separation issues (pay, housing, transportation, etc.)
 - Post-military career/employment
 - VA benefits and services
 - Other federal benefits and services
- In FY 2003:
 - 3,253 workshops with 110,955 participants
- VA rep conducts one-on-one interviews after his/her briefing, as time allows



Overseas Military Service Program (OMSP)

- Travel funded by DoD
- 2 tour groups of 7 Overseas Military Services Coordinators for 120 – 150 days
- Locations
Germany, England, Italy, S. Korea,
Japan, and Okinawa
- Provide VA benefits briefings & individual counseling
- FY 2004 – 624 briefings with 15,183 attendees and 6,544 personal interviews



Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Program

- Jointly sponsored by VA and DoD
- To expedite veterans' receipt of VA Compensation upon release from active duty
- Disability examinations conducted by VA medical facilities, contract medical examiners, or military
- Covers 139 military installations (all branches)



BDD

(continued)

- BDDs in Germany and Korea
- Can apply w/in 180 days of separation
- They take claims and rate disabilities
- Goal: adjudicate claims w/in 30 days of release from active duty
- Results: increased timeliness, quality and customer satisfaction, and reduced costs



Compensation for Service Connected Disabilities

- Disabilities **do not** have to be incurred in combat or during a period of war
- Disabilities are rated 0% to 100%
 - VA rating is independent of any military rating
- Payments begin at 10%
- Monthly TAX FREE payments
- Extra allowance for dependents beginning at 30%



Disability Pension

Must meet all four conditions:

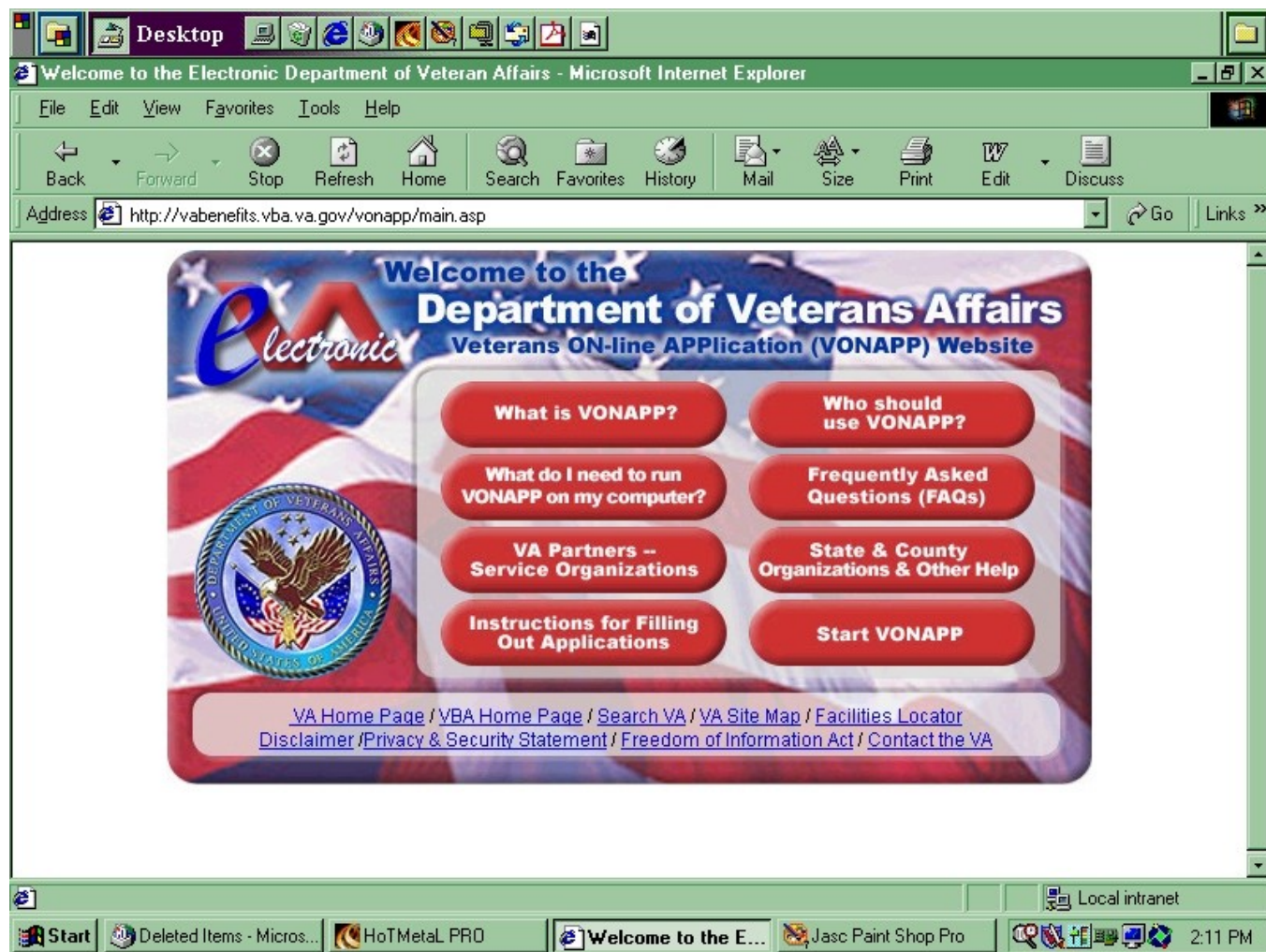
- Wartime Service
- Discharge under conditions other than dishonorable
- Limited Income
- Permanently & Totally Disabled

Current income limits:

Veteran \$846 (monthly)



U. S. Department of Veterans



www.va.gov

December 2004



Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) - Active Duty Eligibility

Categories

- Category 1 - Entered active duty after 6/30/85
- Category 2 - Have remaining entitlement under Vietnam Era GI Bill
- Category 3 - Involuntary separated, or voluntarily separated under VSI or SSB programs
- Category 4 - Eligible to convert from VEAP (GI Bill for Post-Vietnam Era service members before MGIB)



Education

1-888-GIBILL-1

- Degree Programs
- Non-degree programs
- Apprenticeship Programs/OJT
- Correspondence Programs
- Vocational Flight Training Program
- *New* - Licensing & Certificate Tests
 - \$2,000 per test
- Benefits expire 10 years after last release from active duty



Home Loan Guaranty

<http://www.homeloans.va.gov/elig.htm>

- **Eligibility**

- **Active duty** - Served on active duty continuously for at least 181 days or 90 days during period of war
- **Veteran** - Generally, 24 months of continuous active duty or the full period they were called to active duty.
Discharge = under conditions other than dishonorable

- Usually, no down payment required
- Negotiated interest rates and points
- Buyer informed of estimated value
- VA inspection of newly built home and one year warranty
- No time limit



Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

- Service designed to assist disabled veterans in qualifying for and obtaining suitable employment
- VA-established service-connected disability of at least 10% with a serious employment handicap *or*
- 20% with an employment handicap and be discharged or released from military service under other than dishonorable conditions.
- Entitlement period - generally within 12 years of separation or service-connection award notification by VA



Insurance

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

- Servicemember coverage ~~1-800-419-1473~~ ~~1-800-419-1473~~ (effective 4/1/01)
 - Basic coverage premiums reduced to 6.5c per \$1,000 per month
 - Spouse coverage \$100,000 (increments of \$10,000) premiums reduced as of 7/1/03
 - Free dependents coverage (automatically insured for \$10,000)
 - Free 120 days of coverage after discharge
- Convert to Commercial Policy (spouse or vet)
- Veterans Group Life Insurance (Vet only)
- Extension for 1 year fm discharge if totally disabled



Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

- Coverage equal to or less than SGLI at separation
- Lifetime renewable term insurance
- VGLI application mailed to last address of record w/ military w/in 30-75 days of discharge
- Benefits for SGLI/VGLI

Accelerated Benefit Option: terminally ill (9 months or less to live) may apply for up to 50% coverage

Beneficiary Financial Counseling Service:
Free financial counseling for beneficiaries



Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

- **Eligibility** www.va.gov/elig
1-877-222-8387
 - Discharged under honorable conditions
 - Served a minimum of 2 years (if discharged after 9/7/80)
 - If Guard or Reservist, served entire period for which called to active duty other than training purposes only
 - Note: VA will treat veterans for FREE for any illness associated with service in combat in a war after the Gulf War or during a period of hostility after November 11, 1998. The time limit for this treatment is **two years** from release from active duty.
- **Dental Care**
 - 1-time routine dental care
 - 90 days after discharge, if DD214 shows that no dental care was received.



National Cemetery Administration

- National VA Cemeteries ~~(NCA)~~ (currently 120 in 39 states)
- State Cemetery
- Flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate
- Burial Allowance (if eligible)
- Plot-Interment Allowance
- Headstone/Marker

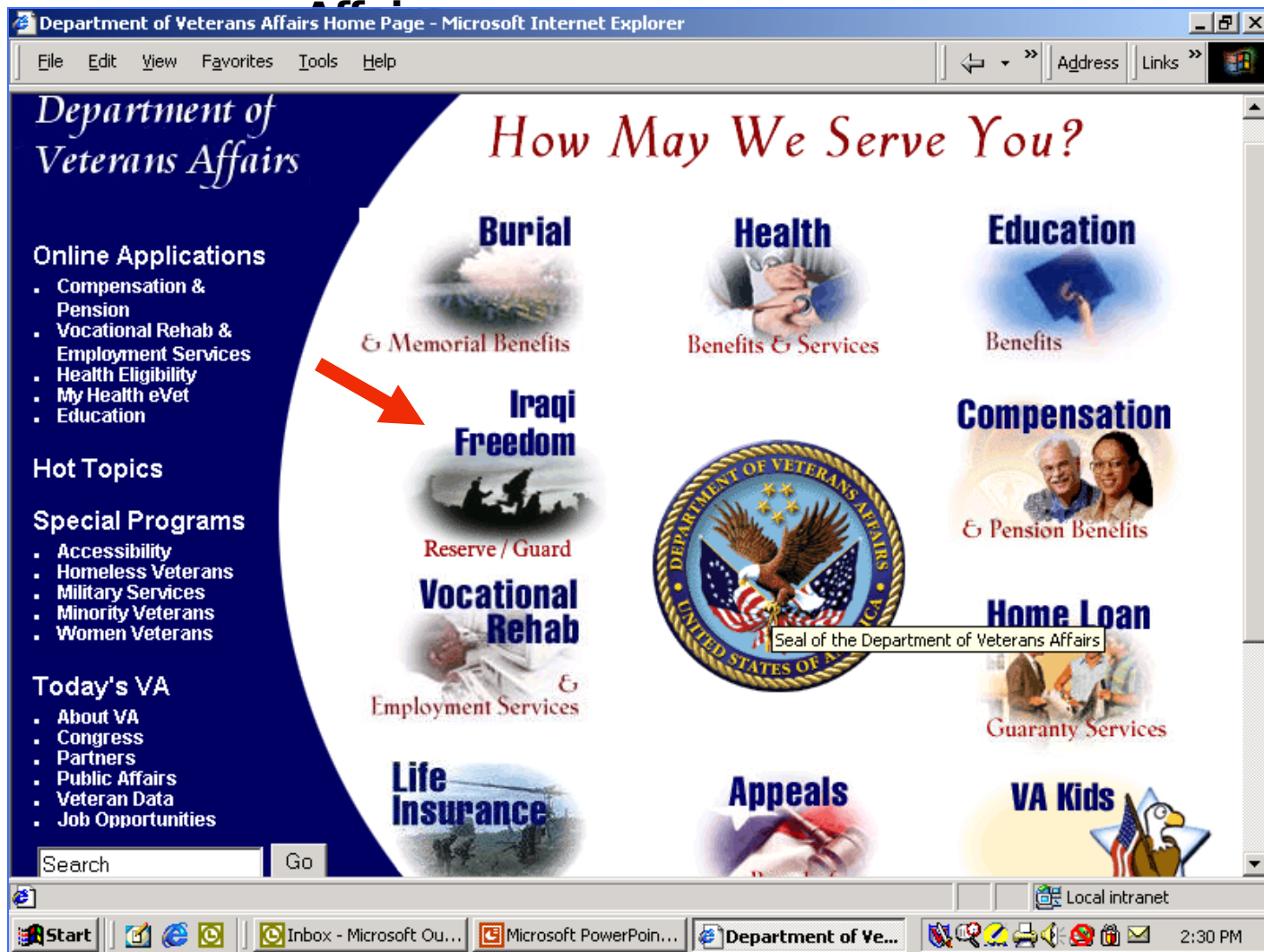


Contacting VA

- General Benefits: 1-800-827-1000
- Education: 1-888-GIBILL-1
- Insurance: 1-800-419-1473
- Gulf War: 1-800-749-8387
- Health Benefits: 1-877-222-8387
- www.va.gov



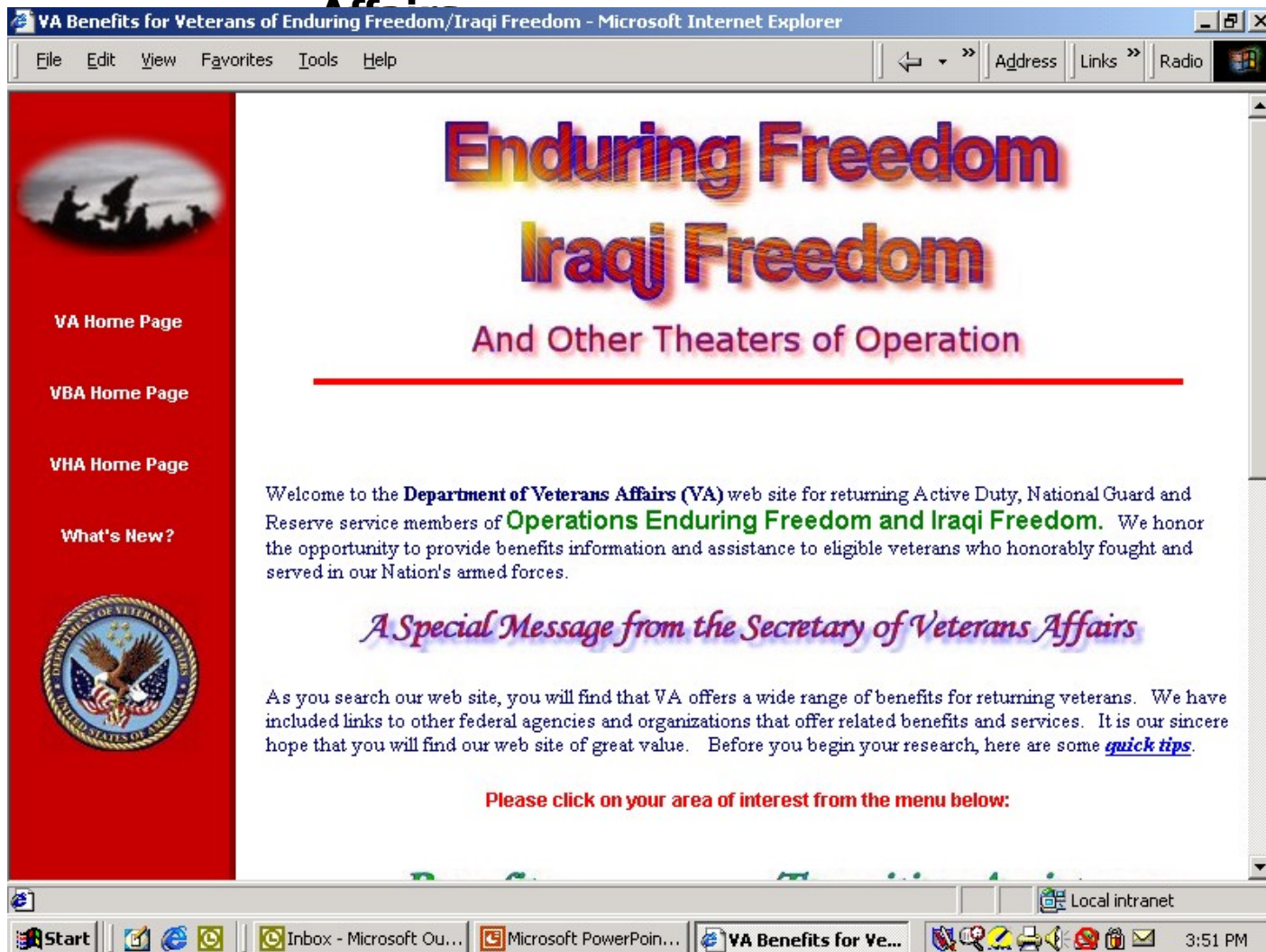
U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs



December 2004



U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the VA Benefits for Veterans of Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom website. The browser's address bar shows the URL. The website has a red sidebar on the left with a silhouette of soldiers and the text "VA Home Page", "VBA Home Page", "VHA Home Page", and "What's New?". Below this is the VA seal. The main content area features the title "Enduring Freedom Iraqi Freedom" in large, stylized, multi-colored letters, followed by "And Other Theaters of Operation". A red horizontal line separates the title from the welcome message. The welcome message states: "Welcome to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) web site for returning Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve service members of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. We honor the opportunity to provide benefits information and assistance to eligible veterans who honorably fought and served in our Nation's armed forces." Below this is a section titled "A Special Message from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" in a cursive font. The message text reads: "As you search our web site, you will find that VA offers a wide range of benefits for returning veterans. We have included links to other federal agencies and organizations that offer related benefits and services. It is our sincere hope that you will find our web site of great value. Before you begin your research, here are some quick tips." Below the message is a red text prompt: "Please click on your area of interest from the menu below:". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several application icons, and the system clock displaying 3:51 PM.

VA Benefits for Veterans of Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address Links Radio

Enduring Freedom Iraqi Freedom

And Other Theaters of Operation

Welcome to the **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** web site for returning Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve service members of **Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom**. We honor the opportunity to provide benefits information and assistance to eligible veterans who honorably fought and served in our Nation's armed forces.

A Special Message from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

As you search our web site, you will find that VA offers a wide range of benefits for returning veterans. We have included links to other federal agencies and organizations that offer related benefits and services. It is our sincere hope that you will find our web site of great value. Before you begin your research, here are some [quick tips](#).

Please click on your area of interest from the menu below:

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December 2004

